



News Release

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Contacts: [Tim Church](#), Communications Office
[Donn Moyer](#), Communications Office

360-236-4077

360-236-4076

Medical marijuana exams sub-standard; naturopath gets two year suspension

Seattle-area naturopathic physician also fined

OLYMPIA — Inadequate examinations for potential medical marijuana patients have led to a two year license suspension and \$5,000 fine for a Seattle-area naturopathic physician. The Board of Naturopathy and the Washington State Department of Health took the action against the credential of Yuel Boyce (NATU.NT.60114352) after immediately suspending his credential in October 2012, pending further legal proceedings. This recent order completes the legal process that started with the October suspension.

Boyce examined three patients for medical marijuana authorizations within 30 minutes and did not require patient medical records. Boyce did not appropriately examine, diagnose, and determine whether they were “qualifying patients,” and signed medical marijuana authorizations in exchange for cash-only payment. The required physical examinations were not provided and follow-up appointments were not scheduled. After receiving cash, Boyce gave the patients marijuana infused peanut butter cups.

Boyce is suspended from the practice of naturopathy for at least two years from the date of this order and must pay the \$5,000 fine before reinstatement. On reinstatement he’ll be on probation for three years and will be restricted from authorizing medical marijuana.

The documents can be seen online by clicking “[Look up a health care provider](#)” on the [Department of Health website](#); copies can be requested by calling 360-236-4700. That’s also the number to call to file complaints against health care providers in Washington. The Board of Naturopathy regulates naturopathic physicians in Washington. The program establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms and discipline. Rules, policies and procedures promote the delivery of quality health care to state residents.

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